



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

Executive Order 2012-09

WHEREAS; The National Weather Service this week issued red flag warnings for southwestern North Dakota due to warm and extremely dry conditions along with forecasts predicting low humidity and gusty winds; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service indicated a “Very High” fire danger for western North Dakota in its September 4, 2012 Fire Danger Index, which indicates dangerous burning conditions and the likelihood of rapid spreading and erratic behavior of fires that do ignite; and

WHEREAS, continuing dry conditions across the state has required twenty-six counties to declare burn bans or other fire restrictions; and

WHEREAS, dry conditions, warm temperatures, and high winds fueled recent fires throughout the state for which a multi-agency effort was required to fight rural wildfires, to include state agencies, local fire departments, and private companies; and

WHEREAS, projected high heat, along with dry conditions, have a high likelihood of causing an outbreak of fires which may be beyond the resource capabilities of local fire departments and area emergency service providers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Drought Monitor, dated August 28, indicates abnormally dry conditions are present in more than 90% of the state, including significant areas of moderate or severe drought in the southwestern and eastern portions of the state; and

WHEREAS, issuance of Fire Danger Index statements of “Very High” or “Extreme” by the National Weather Service will automatically implement mitigation procedures contained in the Fire Danger Index Guide found in the North Dakota Emergency Operations Plan to reduce damage to property and the possible loss of life; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jack Dalrymple, Governor of the State of North Dakota, by the authority invested in me, do hereby declare a fire emergency exists within the state of North Dakota and order the total utilization of the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan to respond to the situation, assist local and tribal

officials, alleviate hardships, and implement appropriate recovery actions and future mitigation measures to limit the hardships and impact of the emergency. To the extent that local orders or proclamations impose greater restrictions than the North Dakota Emergency Operations Plan, those orders or proclamations are incorporated into this order.

This order is issued upon the following basis and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution; and,
2. The Governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code; and,
3. A coordinated and effective effort of all state departments is required to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies in this state.
4. Fire danger warnings from the National Weather Service and state and local emergency management and firefighting organizations indicate a potential severe threat to public and private property.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 5th day of September, 2012.




Jack Dalrymple
Governor

ATTEST:



Secretary of State



Deputy